

Utah Department of Health

Public Health Efforts to Address Opioids

Current Public Health Efforts

- Implement the [Stop the Epidemic](#) public awareness media campaign to increase awareness of opioid risks, signs of an overdose, naloxone, and help-seeking behaviors.
- Encourage individuals to [talk to their pharmacist](#) about opioid risks, signs of an opioid overdose, naloxone, and safe storage and disposal of opioids.
- Increase access to naloxone through [Utah's statewide standing order](#) (Sponsor: Representative Eliason, H.B. 240 2016 General Session) or through an [opioid overdose outreach provider](#) (Sponsor: Representative Spackman-Moss, H.B. 238 2016 General Session). More information can be found at naloxone.utah.gov.
- Provide funding to local health departments and local substance abuse authorities to implement prevention and intervention efforts (material dissemination, public awareness opioid education and naloxone dissemination, etc.).
- Promote the [Living Well](#) website to individuals to access self-management programs, such as the Chronic Pain Self-Management Program, a 6-session evidence-based workshop designed for those dealing with chronic pain.
- Facilitate the [Opioid Fatality Review Committee](#) to support the development of effective strategies for preventing and responding to overdoses.
- Increase access to [syringe exchange](#) services to reduce the spread of disease, promote clean injection practices, provide information on services for substance abuse treatment, conduct disease testing, and educate on overdose prevention and overdose reversal (Sponsor: Representative Eliason, H.B. 308 2016 General Session).
- Support the Utah Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention, a multi-disciplinary collaboration whose mission is to “prevent and reduce opioid abuse, misuse, and overdose deaths through a coordinated response”.
- Develop and disseminate materials to the public on opioid risks, signs of an overdose, naloxone, treatment resources, proper storage and disposal, and non-opioid pain management options (Sponsor: Representative Eliason, [H.B. 399](#) 2018 General Session).
- Implement the strategies identified in the [Utah Health Improvement Plan](#), a statewide collaborative plan to address prescription drug misuse, abuse and overdose in Utah.
- Partner with the Utah Poison Control Center to develop naloxone training videos for the public and law enforcement in addition to bystander reporting of naloxone administration.

Promising Public Health Efforts (CDC supported activities)

- Reducing stigma for those with an opioid use disorder, educating about effective substance use treatment modalities, and harm reduction messages about the dangers of synthetic opioids.
- Stand up a local call center or another platform for community members and others to gain access to information about the public health crisis.
- Enhance linkage to care for those with an opioid use disorder or at risk of an overdose. This includes connecting patients or their peer/family/community with a wide range of treatment and wrap around services.
- Use technology to facilitate connections to care (for example, a “reservations” system that allows referring clinicians to see what treatment options are available and to reserve a spot for a patient in need of fast connection to care).